WE CLAIM:

1. A method for HTS auditing using a software user interface and a database coupled to the software user interface using one or more layers of executable code comprising:

receiving by an importer from a customs broker an entry packet submitted to U.S. Customs, the entry packet containing information relating to a shipment for importation;

entering, by the importer, the entry packet into a first repository in the database;

consulting, by the importer, a second repository in the database, the second repository containing records relevant to a plurality of imported goods;

comparing, by the importer, the entry packet in the first repository with the records in the second repository;

identifying, by the importer, one or more discrepancies between the entry packet and the records; and

generating, by the importer, a report identifying the one or more discrepancies between the entry packet and the records.

2. The HTS audit method of claim 1 wherein the report is used to identify and correct errors relating to importation.

3. The HTS audit method of claim 1 wherein the software user interface comprises links from the first repository to the second repository.

4. The HTS audit method of claim 1 wherein the entry packet is received by the importer from the customs broker in an electronic format.

5. The HTS audit method of claim 1 wherein the entry packet comprises a 7501 Customs form.

6. The HTS audit method of claim 1 wherein the entry packet comprises a commercial invoice for the imported goods.

7. The HTS audit method of claim 1 wherein the entry packet comprises a shipping manifest.

8. The HTS audit method of claim 1 wherein the comparing the entry packet with the records comprises comparing HTS classifications assigned by the customs broker to HTS classifications stored in a product dictionary in the second repository.

9. The HTS audit method of claim 1 wherein the comparing the entry packet with the records comprises comparing attribute classifications assigned by the customs broker to attribute classifications located in the second repository.

10. The HTS audit method of claim 1 wherein the records are organized in a decision tree database.

11. The HTS audit method of claim 1 wherein the report comprises data containing a list of errors based on the identified discrepancies.

12. The HTS audit method of claim 1 wherein the entry packet comprises a Customs 7501 form, a commercial invoice, and a shipping manifest.

13. The HTS audit method of claim 1 wherein the identifying the one or more discrepancies is performed by a second user in a supervisory position over the importer.

14. Computer readable media embodying a program of instructions executable by a computer program to perform a method of auditing HTS entry data for U.S. Customs data comprising

entering an entry packet submitted by a customs broker to U.S. Customs into a database, the entry packet directed to a shipment for importation;

storing internal records relevant to the shipment;

providing a software user interface for comparing, at a computer terminal, the entry packet with the internal records for discrepancies; and

generating a report identifying one or more discrepancies between the entry packet and the internal records.

15. The computer readable media of claim 14 wherein the report is used to identify and correct errors relating to importation.

16. A system for auditing HTS classifications, comprising:

a database comprising internal records relevant to HTS classifications;

a computer terminal;

a user interface accessible from the computer terminal; and

a software program suite coupled to the database and to the user interface, the software program suite configured to:

receive electronic entry packets;

enable a user at the computer terminal to compare one of the entry packets to the internal records; and

enable the user to generate a report comprising discrepancies between the one of the entry packets and the internal records.

17. The system of claim 16 wherein the internal records are organized in a decision tree database.

18. The system of claim 16 wherein the report is used to identify and correct errors relating to importation.

19. The system of claim 16 wherein the report comprises data containing a list of errors based on the identified discrepancies.

20. The system of claim 16 further comprising a second computer terminal through which the user interface is accessible.

21. The system of claim 20 wherein the second terminal is configured to enable a second user to compare some of the entry packets to the internal records.

22. The system of claim 16 wherein the entry packets comprise a Customs 7501 form, a commercial invoice, and a shipping manifest.

23. The system of claim 16 wherein the software interface comprises software navigational links.

24. An HTS classification method for auditing entry packets for U.S. Customs comprising:

inserting, using a software user interface, an entry packet into a database;

comparing data in the entry packet to internal records located in the database;

identifying one or more errors between the data and the internal records; and

generating a report comprising the errors.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein the entry packet comprises a 7501 U.S. Customs form.

26. The method of claim 24 wherein the database further comprises a plurality of repositories, including a repository for storing the entry packet and at least one repository for storing the internal records.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein one of the at least one repository comprises a decision tree database of HTS classifications.

28. The method of claim 24 wherein the comparing is performed by a user working for the importer.

29. The method of claim 24 wherein the report is used to identify and correct discrepancies relating to importation.

30. The method of claim 24 wherein the software user interface is accessible from a plurality of user terminals.

31. The method of claim 24 wherein the entry packet is obtained from a customs broker.

32. The method of claim 24 wherein the inserting the entry packet is performed by an analyst working for the importer.

33. The method of claim 24 wherein the internal records are organized in an internal-to-commodity map.

34. An apparatus for auditing of HTS classification for U.S. Customs importation, comprising:

(i) a database comprising a plurality of repositories;

(ii) software user interface means for accessing the database comprising

(a) input means for entering entry packets;

(b) comparison means for comparing entry packets with internal records in some of the plurality of repositories;

(c) report-generating means for creating reports identifying inconsistencies between the entry packets and the internal records; and

(iii) a plurality of remote terminals through which the software user interface is accessible by one or more users.

35. The apparatus of claim 34 wherein reports from the report-generating means are used to correct errors in importation.

36. The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the internal records are organized in a decision tree database.